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Poland

Trade Policy Monitoring

Polish Comments on Agricultural Subsidies

2006

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Report Highlights:

Polish Prime Minister suggest future EU agricultural subsidies be put on the chopping block.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Warsaw [PL1]
[PL]

In a press interview during his recent visit to Brussels, Polish Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski said he supported phasing out EU agricultural subsidies in favor of increased military spending. He noted that this would be very difficult to do, but that it should be discussed during the planned 2008-09 EU budget review. Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture Andrzej Lepper quickly criticized the Prime Minister for his remarks. A government spokesperson later explained that the comments referred to a "far future" plan and the Prime Minister currently supports EU farm subsidies. The visit was Kaczynski's first to Brussels as Prime Minister.

(Comment: Lepper leads an agrarian populist political party whose basic platform is support for continued agricultural subsidies. His party is often at odds with Kaczynski's center-right party, including on these issues. The current Polish government is a coalition of three parties, the primary party being Law and Justice headed by Kaczynski, whose twin brother is President.)